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NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

Violetta Thurston is an English nurse who has served both on the western and eastern battle front. For the last three months she has been attached to a flying Red Cross column in Poland. She was wounded by a piece of a shell that burst near her while she was bending over a man half of whose shoulder had been torn away. Happily the wound was not serious. At Lodz a bomb fell almost beside her, dropped from an aeroplane. Some soldiers ran forward, expecting to gather up her remains and found her gazing into the hole the bomb had made in the roadway. She was arrested in Belgium as a spy. After examining her the German officer said: "You are English, I suppose you really are a barmherzige schwester, a sister of mercy. Truly the British are a wonderful race."

There are many field sterilizers of various types for the purification of water for use at the front. One of these consists of a gasoline engine, dynamo, pump and ultra-violet ray apparatus. These invisible rays, not yet fully understood, possess a wonderful bactericidal action and completely kill all germs in water. 150 to 200 gallons of pure drinking water can be prepared in a few moments.

Tetanus, though unfortunately claiming a large number of deaths, may rank amongst the septic diseases which have been greatly minimized by modern treatment. French soldiers have been supplied with anti-tetanus serum and a syringe for injecting it, so that if able they may give first aid as soon as the wound is received. Owing to its intensive cultivation the soil of Belgium is peculiarly dangerous and prolific of the tetanus germ.

A pretty story is told in a German newspaper of a rose bush that grew in a huge hole torn by a shell in front of the Guards' trenches. The men tended it carefully and when it bloomed decided to send the rose to the Emperor. He was delighted with the gift and commanded the poet, Richard Voss, to write a poem on the incident. This was printed and sent to every Guardsman concerned in the affair.

Out of 700 wounded soldiers admitted to the Canadian hospital at Dinard, France, only four have died. The building is just opposite St Mark's and was given to the French Government by Madame DeVassan. The Canadian Government gave \$100,000 for the maintenance of the hospital.

Professor Rinard, of the French Academy of Medicine, says war babies are stronger and healthier than their predecessors. This he considers due to the increase of breast feeding.

The medical faculty of the University of Toronto have offered a base hospital of 1040 beds to Lord Kitchener. The 84 nurses to accompany it will be taken from the different city hospitals in affiliation with the University.

The Ladies Journal of Constantinople is said to have published this startling announcement: "The harem of his Moslemic Majesty Chesyar Vilyam the Second, together with the harems of his staff will visit Constantinople early next spring. Ten of the most powerful of the captured British dreadnaughts will escort the Imperial party."

Alexandra, the Queen-mother of England, has written an autograph letter to the Mother-Superior of the Franciscan Sisters in France, thanking her for devoted care given to the English wounded by the Sisters.

French soldiers in the field wear a metal protection, a sort of armor that covers the chest, abdomen and head. The lower part is fastened on by straps over the shoulders and a belt.

Sir William Osler, late of Johns Hopkins Hospital, has issued a pamphlet addressed to soldiers, entitled, *The Bacillus and the Bullet*. He urges vaccination against smallpox and inoculation against typhoid.

Nurses who are sent abroad with the Canadian Contingents first receive training in military nursing at the Quebec Hospital.

Khaki is said to be the color best suited to render the soldiers clad in it invisible to the enemy. It is to be adopted by the Belgian troops as rapidly as possible. It has been tested in the British Army under every possible condition of climate and surroundings.